

# Jo Bonner

## THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

315 Cannon House Office Building ★ Washington, DC 20515 ★ (202) 225-4931 ★ June 2004

### LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR JUNE



With gasoline prices remaining at exorbitant levels and with the Senate's failure to pass the Energy Policy Act, the House in mid-June passed several separate energy bills to make a statement that we need to address issues involving domestic production, dependence on foreign oil, and refinery capacity. Most notably, the House passed a separate version of the comprehensive Energy Policy Act and a bill to expand oil refineries.

The annual appropriations process is gaining steam. The House Appropriations Committee has approved four of the 13 regular appropriations bills - Defense, Energy and Water Development, Homeland Security, and Interior. The House is expected to pass these bills by the end of June.

The House and Senate have passed corporate tax cut legislation aimed at resolving a World Trade Organization (WTO) determination that certain U.S. tax policies violated WTO rules. This decision enabled the European Union to begin imposing retaliatory trade sanctions against American products. The legislation would repeal the corporate tax breaks and adopt new business tax incentives that do not run afoul of the WTO. The House and Senate bills differ significantly and must be negotiated by a conference committee.

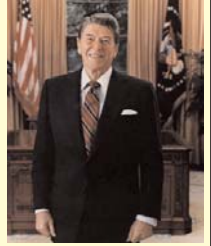


*I was pleased to have the opportunity recently to welcome the new President of Iraq, Sheikh Ghazi Al-Yawer, to the Capitol. President Al-Yawer and I first met during my December 2003 trip to Iraq.*

### PASSING OF A GREAT AMERICAN

In the early afternoon of June 5, 2004, citizens everywhere received word of the passing of a true American legend.

Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died quietly at his home surrounded by his children and his devoted wife of 52 years, Nancy. His death not only brought an end to his ten-year battle against Alzheimer's disease, but it also brought to an end one of the truly great lives in American history.



In the week following his death, men, women, and children from all parts of the country paid their respects to the former president in whatever way they could. Over 100,000 people filed past the coffin at the Reagan Library in California, and an even greater number filed through the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to pay their last respects to a man who, during his presidency, had given this country a renewed sense of optimism and pride.

History will be the ultimate judge of the Reagan presidency and of his successes in both domestic and foreign policy. In the meantime, we should each take a moment to reflect on the impact he had on our lives and remember his unselfish and unwavering devotion to the United States.

A man of his stature will not soon pass this way again.

Note: Messages of condolence can be sent to Mrs. Reagan and the family through the Reagan Library's memorial web site, [www.ronaldreaganmemorial.com](http://www.ronaldreaganmemorial.com).

### MEDICARE CONFERENCES A SUCCESS

On June 7, I was pleased to host two Medicare town hall meetings here in south Alabama. The first, held at the James P. Nix Center in Fairhope, was attended by over 200 individuals, and the follow-up meeting at the Mary Abbe Berg Center in Mobile was attended by 400 residents.

Along with my friend and colleague from Georgia, Representative Phil Gingrey, and Tim Trysla with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the conferences proved to be a tremendous success. Many of those in attendance came armed with some tough questions for the conference speakers, and a great deal of useful information was provided. Additionally, both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration hosted some very informative breakout sessions.

I hope you will feel free to contact my office if you have any additional questions on the new Medicare prescription drug law or need assistance with any other area of government.

## LOCAL PROJECTS RECEIVE CONSIDERATION

I am pleased to have been successful in having several local projects funded in the appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee so far this year.

The committee has approved \$6 million for the 14 Mile CSX Railroad Bridge, Mobile River, in the FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The full House passed this legislation on June 17.

The full House also passed the Interior Appropriations bill on June 17. I was especially gratified that the bill included my request for \$1.2 million for land acquisition in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. The Mobile-Tensaw Delta project, located within Baldwin and Mobile Counties, contributes to the conservation of Alabama's largest and most ecologically significant forested wetland ecosystem and the nation's second largest delta recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

Many of our local water development projects were funded in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill approved by



*Mobile Harbor*

closure under the original budget request. Brewton's flood control study will receive \$145,000 under this bill and the Intracoastal waterway is funded at \$5 million. These projects are part of the economic lifeblood of our district and will continue to play a strong role in facilitating commerce and protecting life and property.

Following House action, the Senate must also act on all appropriations bills and conference committees must meet to resolve differences in the bills. This process is far from complete, but as of now we are in good shape on these important projects.



*Small Delta alligator*



*Black Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway*

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



(Photo by Richard Latoff)

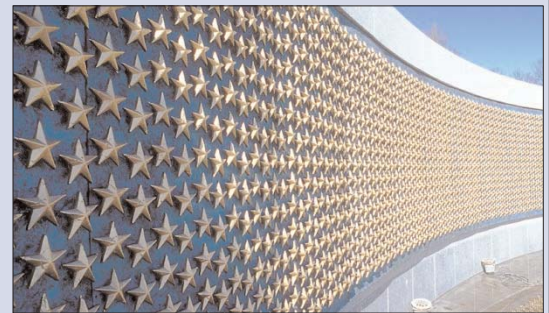
## D-DAY REMEMBRANCE: 60 YEARS LATER

On June 6, 2004, Americans everywhere took time to remember a landmark event in the history of the modern world.

Sixty years earlier, tens of thousands of Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, to begin what General Dwight Eisenhower referred to as "the great crusade" to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny. During the first hours of the invasion, 1,465 Americans were killed, 3,184 were wounded, 1,928 were listed as missing, and 26 were captured. In fact, during the entire Normandy operation, which lasted until August 1944, 237,000 Allied troops lost their lives.

Six decades have passed since that time, and sadly it has taken this country nearly that entire period to complete work on a long-overdue memorial to the veterans of the war in Europe and the Pacific. The national World War II Memorial was officially dedicated Memorial Day weekend, and thousands of veterans and their families were on hand to receive a very belated "thank you" from the American people.

It is a beautiful memorial to the over 405,000 men and women who gave their lives in defense of this country and of freedom around the world, and I would encourage each of you to pay a visit in the future and say your own "thank you" to the "Greatest Generation."



*Field of Stars*

## From the mailbox...

*Dear Mr. Bonner,*

*First let me say that in my 10 to 15 years trying to get the VA to understand that I need help, you are the only person (and Kay Williams) that has ever cared that I was hurt and tried to help.*

*This is just a letter to thank you for all you have done for me. Even if my claim goes no further, I will remember you really did seem to care.*

*I can't work, but I believe I may get help because of you.*

*Your aide, Kay Williams, has been great and if you would, thank her for me.*

*God Bless you and keep you safe.*

*Best regards,*

*A thankful veteran*

